

Merkel of Germany, Gazprom's stake in Wingas will rise to just under 50 percent.

Gazprom is also poised to sign a similar development deal with E.On.

"Their discussions are advancing," Mr. Moncrief said. "The letter to E.On is preemptive and assumes that it will strike a similar deal with Gazprom to the one signed last month.

"Both BASF and E.On were informed by Moncrief of its prior interest in the Y.-R. field in 2005 when the first reports of a deal with Gazprom were emerging, and again in March this year—we still received no response. Certainly no one has ever denied the existence of our prior interest."

A Wintershall spokesman, Stefan Leunig, refused to "comment on the validity of Moncrief's claim."

Mr. Leunig said he did not expect the threat of legal action from Moncrief to affect the deal it signed with Gazprom last month, adding that his company's lawyers "do not recognize any legal foundation for a lawsuit by Moncrief against BASF-Wintershall in a court in Germany."

E.On could not be reached for comment.

Mr. Miller said he was confident that his company had grounds to sue. "Wintershall and E.On both know that their interest in the Y.-R. field interferes with Moncrief's contracts," he said, adding, "We value our 40 percent stake in Yuzhno-Russkoye at around \$8 billion."

Moncrief agreed to invest \$800 million to \$1 billion in the gas field, which it estimates contains 600 billion cubic meters of natural gas deposits. Mr. Miller said it had spent \$10 million to \$15 million on engineering and financing connected with the gas field.

Moncrief tried to sue Gazprom in Federal District Court in Fort Worth, but the court ruled that the case fell outside its jurisdiction. Moncrief is appealing that decision. In the meantime, rather than pursue Gazprom on its home territory, Mr. Miller said his company stood a better chance of fair treatment in Germany. "We don't think we'll get a fair trial in Russia," he said.

Michael Emerson, a specialist in European energy matters with the Center for European Policy Studies in Brussels, an independent research group, said Gazprom had reasons for extending its distribution reach further into Europe.

In addition to selling in lucrative European markets, the company is trying to thwart efforts to establish a new pipeline bringing gas from Turkmenistan to Europe through Turkey. Pressure to create such a pipeline mounted after gas supplies from Russia were cut to countries including Ukraine this past winter.

"Gazprom doesn't want this alternative supply route," Mr. Emerson said. "By consolidating its stake in E.On and BASF, Gazprom will gain a voice in all the strategic investment issues, and will be better placed to persuade European companies not to invest in a competing route."

#### TRIBUTE TO LANIE BLACK

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lanie Black for his years of public service to citizens of Southeast Missouri. Rep. Black has represented the 161st district in the Missouri House of Representatives since 1998, and he will retire at the end of the 2d Session of the 93rd General Assembly.

While in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of the Economic Development Committee and chaired the Transportation Committee. He has been a tireless advocate for his constituents, ensuring that their views are represented in the Missouri General Assembly.

Lanie has been a life-long resident of Charleston, Missouri. He is a 1965 graduate of Charleston High School. He then went on to Vanderbilt University to earn a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. After graduating from Vanderbilt, Rep. Black served as a diver for the U.S. Navy.

In addition to serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, Lanie Black has been an active member of his community. Rep. Black operates a poultry farm near Charleston, Missouri. He is a member of the local Kiwanis Club and the Missouri Farm Bureau. Lanie has continued to help the Boy Scouts of America as a scoutmaster. In 1993, Lanie Black was honored as the Charleston Man of the Year for his outstanding community involvement.

There are few individuals in public service who are as dedicated to our communities and country as Lanie Black. He has always put the views and interests of his constituents before his own political interest. Rep. Black was able to use his great knowledge of agriculture and rural affairs to better represent the needs and concerns of the citizens of Southeast Missouri. His strong faith and firm values guided him to public service, and he will exit that stage with dignity and class.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Rep. Lanie Black. Missouri is a better place because of his leadership, and we wish Rep. Black the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO PETER MYERS

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter Myers, Missouri State Representative for the 160th legislative district. Rep. Myers is retiring from the Missouri General Assembly after eight years of distinguished service.

Rep. Myers was born on January 4, 1931 in Racine, Wisconsin. Upon graduation from William Horlick High School in Racine, Wisconsin, he earned a Bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1953. Rep. Myers proudly served his country from 1953–1955 as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Ordinance Corp. Rep. Myers then moved to Southeast Missouri in 1955, to own and operate a farm on the outskirts of Sikeston, MO. From 1955–1982, Rep. Myers worked the land and spent countless days in the fields cultivating crops. During this time, Rep. Myers gained a reputation as being an extremely knowledgeable and skilled farmer.

In the early eighties, Rep. Myers ventured into public service by accepting positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Although Rep. Myers had been involved in many civic organizations and recognized as a leader in Missouri Agriculture, he was able to bring his expertise to a national level. He served in sev-

eral capacities throughout USDA, and eventually rose to the level of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture during the Reagan Administration. After Rep. Myers' service to USDA, he remained a strong voice for the American farmer.

In 1998, Rep. Myers decided to further serve Missourians in the General Assembly. He won a seat in the Missouri House of Representatives, representing the 160th District. Rep. Myers eventually rose to become the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Missourians have been fortunate to have such a devoted and well-versed member of the General Assembly. In addition to Rep. Myers' legislative duties, he advises Adopt a Farm Family of America, Inc., which is a Christian organization that provides support to rural citizens. Rep. Myers has committed his life to bettering the lives not just of farmers or his constituents, but of all Missourians.

As Rep. Myers completes his final term in the Missouri General Assembly, he can rest assured his actions in Jefferson City are well-respected by all Missouri farmers. His wife Mary and five children deserve to be commended as well, for they have supported Rep. Myers through the years. I once again congratulate Rep. Myers on his devoted service to the citizens of Missouri's 160th District. While Rep. Myers' time in office is winding down, I am certain he will remain a prominent figure in Missouri public life.

#### HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4157) to amend the Social Security Act to encourage the dissemination, security, confidentiality and usefulness of health information technology:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express some concerns with the bill before us, but also to urge my colleagues to find ways to encourage the careful development of meaningful health information technology systems. It is critical that we move rapidly toward the development and implementation of an electronic health information system, but it also is critical that this be done with great forethought and integrity.

I regret that I cannot support the bill before us today because it fails to include critical components mandating quality in our health care technology systems. Furthermore, I echo the concerns of my colleagues regarding the need for patient privacy standards and important consumer protections.

This is a missed opportunity for our nation's health care system. The goal of moving health care from pen and paper to the digital age has enjoyed bipartisan support. I am troubled that the bill presented to the House of Representatives today fails to meet the standards of the bipartisan coalition spearheaded by my colleague, PATRICK KENNEDY.

In recent years, I have been proud to see the health care community in Rhode Island come together to accelerate the use of health